

# California GARDEN

WINTER NUMBER

Volume 37, No. 4

## *The Garden*

Who rears four walls around a little plot  
—Some still, secluded spot—  
And digs and sows therein, has done a thing  
Beyond his reckoning.  
In one small, fended space  
Beauty and deep, untellable content  
Make their abiding-place  
And measureless peace is pent.  
There time takes note of tender happenings:  
The shimmer of a butterfly's blue wings  
Above the clustered phlox;  
A spider's will to work a miracle  
Between two hollyhocks;  
A twilight cricket's humble prophecies;  
A brown bird by a pool, and all that goes  
Into the lovely lifetime of a rose;  
A pansy's lore, and little, questing bees'  
Strange, sweet biographies.

NANCY BYRD TURNER

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In the Garden

# Reynard Way Camellia Gardens

We specialize in Camellias, which means that we carry only the varieties which we have tried and found will perform successfully in this area. Some Camellias may be superb in color, form, and habit of plant but if they are not at their best in San Diego County, we know it. Through time we have selected OUR choice for YOU.

Yes, some specimens will cost \$50, but we have smaller plants at \$2.

*You may be amazed that so many Cymbidium plants are being grown right here in San Diego. We have the largest collection o plants in this area. You can buy any size. They range from those which are ready and sure to bloom to those which are smaller, then you can have the fun of growing them for a year or two before they bloom. Even as little as \$5 will buy a sprouted back bulb though our choicest large plants are worth \$250*

We want you to drop in for information. Don't feel that you must buy. We are anxious to make San Diego a true Flower City. If I can interest you, you can interest your friends. Bring them in so that we may become acquainted.

2661 Reynard Way, Just off of State St.



# California Garden

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## For the Restoration of Old Spanish San Diego

By Roland S. Hoyt

The restoration of old San Diego in the light of its historical background and early culture is a splendid idea and something the entire community owes to the past, to itself and to posterity. This is not too much to ask of ourselves considering the grief that was there and the glory which will not die . . . our heritage.

It is without question a sound project considering the peculiar position of the city as a tourist objective and the compulsion under which it works to lure people to an extreme corner of the nation. Tourists who have passed through the few isolated exhibits in the past by the thousands, have gone on with a more complete picture of the area's significance than many who work and live here. This is to be expected. People always overlook that which lies at their feet.

Time and study and much intelligent research will go into any comprehensive planning for such a development. This may be taken for granted, also that it will be done well. When it comes to appropriate planting to go with buildings, gardens and patios, there will be less available material, factual or legendary on which to base an authoritative list. One will be less sure of the actual trees and shrubs, the flowers that were used and the period when they were introduced.

People coming to a strange shore, which inevitably lacks hospitality, are concerned first with shelter and next with the matter of continued subsistence from local sources. The notes they make must be meager.

Starting from there, it can be fairly assumed that the trend was from the economic to the aesthetic in plants . . . from something to eat to that which is pleasant or beautiful. Thus it seems logical that any tabulation of plant materials must take into account successive periods of development.

Many plants are known without question to have been used about the early and following habitations of this and like areas. It is logical, or at least possible that others were there on the ground in the beginning and not recorded. As an instance, many takings of firewood from a Laurel Sumac clump would ultimately cause its death. Seedlings would have been left to keep the species going in the vicinity . . . at least it has in later years. To this day a little shrubby Boxthorn, without any doubt indigenous and so far as I can be sure, nameless, has persisted at the foot of Presidio Hill. Might not this be picked up and a place made for it in the restoration, if not in botanical nomenclature. The gold-specked heads of blue Bastard-indigo must have in-

trigued some of those early people. It was there . . . at least one heavy clump was grubbed out in the early days of construction of Presidio Park and it was very old.

In fact many plants, presumably were grown over the many years of the Spanish occupation, mingling gradually with those coming in under the American influence. Not all became what may be termed typical, yet must have existed there at some time or other if only under sufferance as, witness the Castor Bean which was brought in by the Padres for medicinal purposes and remained to grace the chaff of every dump today. It would be most interesting to know whether these men ever found that other plant of potent medicine, the buckthorn of their mountainous back country, *Cascarilla* *segrada* of the pharamcists. The proximity of outstandingly pictorial species on the hills and in the valleys suggests, even insists that more were brought in by the seed-hungry Padres than is mentioned. They weren't so important then as a matter of record. Yet continued nostalgic reference to little Roses of Castile which was nothing more than the wild California Rose shows that their eyes were open to the beauties about. It doesn't seem possible that the beauty-loving Spaniard, even in the lean of the year, could have overlooked the utterly picturesque aspect of the Sycamore that grew so near and not adopt it as his own.

They may not have allowed for the peculiar demands of these wildlings so that they did not establish permanently. We have our difficulties today bringing them under domestication.

So it is, that whatever has persisted or whatever may be re-integrated in this should be planted. These plants have had to deal with the highs and lows of the climate whether in nature or a Mexican's backyard. Photographs of early San Diego proper or New Town show few trees. In all probability Old Town was even more bare originally because water must have been even more precious and not to be wasted on mere trees. Any tree or shrub had to make it's own way. It reached down deep and quickly if it were to survive. Any cover for this ground came up with the rains to spread out under foot, probably more or less of a nuisance, and dried up with the native grasses on the hills. It cannot be overlooked too, that many of the first introductions naturally came from Mediterranean regions of similar climate, mild but dry and hot . . . arid.

So it is, that treatment of the plants following is inductive as well as factual. It represents probabilities as well as what is known to have happened . . . even the latter is not always satisfactorily conclusive. As a whole, the study may be regarded as a basis on which to rest the case for a more rounded checklist for these plantings. Looking backward over so many years, the romance of plant materials, as of the people, was not so much a matter of invention or light thought as of the hard necessity to survive in a land that had little to offer gratefully except sunshine . . . even as now. People must work and think if they are to build well.

It may be noted that most trees grown by the earlier people were deciduous, dropping their leaves in preparation for Winter. Whether this just happened or whether they thought of the matter of warmth, will not be known. There was little wood to cut for fuel. Sunshine through bare Winter branches was as desirable as the shade of foliage in the heat of Summer. An elementary study in comfort and contentment must have been that of a gaffer on the sunny side of a house on a frosty morning . . . a picture that stems from the life pattern of the people, the climate and the one luxury the country had to offer . . . the Sun.

Later, probably during the hacienda period of more gracious living and ease, the fullblown, umbrageous heads and evergreen foliage of Pepper and Umbu had become available, while

some families had moved out into Oak country. The Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) is surely typical of Spanish life in California, but it may be doubted there were any in San Diego. The Spaniard, Viscaino (1602), reported Oak trees on Point Loma. Was this Live Oak or was it the little scrubby oak (*Quercus dumosa*) found there today? At first thought, it seems likely to be the larger tree because Dana tells of much firewood of Oak trees being taken aboard vessels lying in the harbor at the time of the hide trade. Others have it that Point Loma was once covered with Oak forest and that it was denuded. Consider the old world standard of cordwood, short sticks ranging in thickness from your lady's wrist to a man's thumb. The Spaniards would have been satisfied with the little tree as firewood, while the later New Englanders, even with their more opulent conceptions of wood to burn, would find it expedient and more convenient to take it from the brush rather than go inland for size that would only have to be reduced to galley proportions anyway.

The conclusion that the brushy tree satisfies historical references doesn't help a great deal in establishing a fact as a basis for using Oaks in the restoration, yet they should be considered in this plan. They are not found in nature as near as this to the water, but there is plenty of evidence that they will thrive there. The Live Oak, as much as any other tree will afford that particular atmosphere usually accepted as Spanish . . . age-old and with something of the gentility that would come of the later years. The associated moss, however, would be missing. Further north (Santa Barbara) they carry a moss that is characteristic if not attractive and not of the hanging length of the Spanishmoss (*Tillandsia*) of Oaks in Florida or along the Gulf Coast. In any event, moss or none, the tree has much to offer.

The native Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) could hardly have been overlooked in all those years. . . . It must have been everywhere in the cienegas and in quantity up Mission Valley and its ramifications. If these people had any idea of picking up beauty and taking it home, surely, someone, sometime must have been curious as to the buttonball of seed and what it might be expected to produce. Maybe it was only a matter of ambition. There are no time-honored

trees in the area to indicate even passing interest and appreciation. The tree lover, the late George Marston, held it in high esteem and had many planted on the golf course at the foot of Presidio Hill. Anyone who has seen a venerable specimen of this tree will admit its unique if not authentic place in this development.

Here is a striking study in the heavy mottled bole, the white, wierdly twisting limbs writhing in uttermost contrition under an open canopy of leaves and all bending to the wind. The deep soil and underlying moisture is perfect for their growth and if a fungus leaf-spot has become prevalent the last few years, it only means that the leaves fall earlier. There doubtless was always something to worry about through the gaunt years . . . this may do for now.

And the Soledad or Torrey Pine (*Pinus torreyana*), that characterful, equally picturesque tree found on the city's northernmost elevation, it must have come under observation, if it excited no speculation. Almost certainly it never was transplanted into a man's garden until modern times, where it is an anachronism of the first order. The early settlers knew nothing of its rarity, of the fact that there in an area measured in acres and in only one other spot in the world, would be found this tree. There in a botanical island for time unknown, affused alternately by ocean fog and desert sun, in soil so poor as to support little else and rain next to nil, these trees waited.

It was the middle of the XIXth Century before they were found by the botanist Parry, in the West on one of the early railroad surveys. If a Pine tree may be admitted here, this is the one. Over and above the historic background, it will be found most adapted to a *laissez-faire* course in gardening appropriate to this place. Here without the interminable fuss and bother of too much fertilizer and over abundant moisture, free of crowded ground, as of a normal city planting, the tree may develop the typical beauty with which Nature endowed it. And there in future years more people will see them than will go to the Hill and know how God meant them to appear to eye and understanding.

Around every turn in Southern California one finds a Peppertree (*Schinus*  
(Continued on page 7)

## Calliandra (Inga)

Kal-i-an' drah. From *kalos*, beautiful and *aner*, a man, refers to the male parts; literally beautiful stamens. Family Leguminosae, related to Acacia.

A number of shrubs are characterized by having masses of stamens in globose clusters, and these are quite likely to be species of Calliandra.

*Calliandra guildingi*, (Trinidad Flamebush). This is a small tree or large shrub of rounded habit and generally 6 to 8 feet high. It comes from Trinidad. The foliage is bi-pinnate, there being numerous leaflets which are hardly more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long and about  $\frac{1}{16}$  inches across. As is quite common with such compound leaves, these close at night or in very dull weather. The flowers are composed mainly of many stamens, which are crimson, altho the petals at the base are greenish-white. The flowers come in late Spring or Summer and again toward Winter. The seed pods are about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches long and  $\frac{3}{16}$  inches wide with thickened margins. The stems are covered sparsely with whitish hairs. This is often cataloged as *C. tweedi* (*Inga pulcherrima*) but Bailey and Taylor say that the stamens are purple.

**Culture.** The plants are drouth resistant but stand water and grow in either sun or half-shade. Because these shrubs are rather open and the foliage scant, it may be wise to prune them for compactness for if there is any fault it is in the sparseness of the plant.

**Uses.** Plants are well espaliered against a fence or wall. Hugh Evans recommends them for a hedge which may be clipped regularly.

*Calliandra inaequilatera*, Rosepink C., (Powderpuff C.). Introduced from Bolivia by Hugh Evans, we have an outstanding shrub with brilliant rose pompons of bloom in the axil of every leaf. The stamens in each flower are in two clusters and a number of flowers combine to produce the heads which are 3 inches across. They are in bloom for about 7 months in the year. The leaves are thick, leathery and the petiole is forked in two, so that each section is 10-parted with lopsided prominently 4-veined oval leaflets which are bronzy when young. The branches are chocolate brown, later becoming greenish-brown. The plants grow 5 feet tall. Mr. Evans

recommends these shrubs for training against a wall, altho he has specimens which are broader than tall.

*Calliandra portoricensis*, Puerto Rico C. This species from the West Indies grows 25 feet tall and produces misty tufts of pure white stamens which at night are fragrant and seem almost fabricated from moonbeams. In the daytime, however, these stamens hang down in a mass. The stamens are really in clusters of three. The leaflets are very numerous,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long and fold at night. The plants do not persist in the garden long except under very favorable conditions. Altho the name is derived from Puerto Rico, it seems best to pronounce it por-tor-i-sen'sis.

*Calliandra californica*, California C. Native to Lower California, this is a shrub with hairy branches 4 feet tall. The tufty flowers are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter and are made up of purple stamens. The leaves are 7 to 8-parted, the leaflets  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long there being a weak spine at the base of the petiole.

ALFRED C. HOTTES.

## Arbutus —

### Madrone, Strawberrytree

Ar'-beu-tus by Bailey, usually pronounced ar-beu' tus. From *arboise*, a Celtic word for *rough fruit*. Family Ericaceae, related to Heather and Rhododendron.

Two quite different plants belong in this group. One is the native Madrone tree which grows all over western North America. The other is a tree-like shrub, the Strawberrytree, a native of southern Europe and Ireland.

*Arbutus menziesi* is called the Pacific Madrona or Madrone. It is familiar to all Nature lovers because its trunks are a dark cinnamon-brown and someone has said that old trees with much contorted branches are "like some old tree of an old Master's canvas." The foliage is a good dark green but the flowers are not particularly admired. It will attain a height of 100 feet.

**Culture.** The Madrone is essentially a mountain tree and does not submit to cultivation, because we who garden are impatient of its slow growth. W. J. Bean calls it "the noblest of all the Heath family." It dislikes root disturbance and when nurserymen grow it, it is constantly handled so that its taproot is not injured in transplanting.

Being a member of the Heath family it likes and acid soil. It tolerates 20 degrees of frost.

*Arbutus unedo*. The Strawberrytree, or Strawberry Madrone, grows 30 feet tall generally with many trunks. The bark is often peeling from the older branches. The trees, or large shrubs as they are properly called, are round-headed and seem as if they had been pruned to a compact form. These large shrubs not only produce their white or pinkish flowers to give a show but they also bear their warty red fruits at the same time. Few garden subjects rival this Arbutus in its excellent shining foliage. A compact dwarf variety is obtainable.

**Uses.** This is a superior garden tree either for specimens, for back-grounds, for formal clipping and the California Association of Park Administrators have chosen it as one of the 65 trees suitable for parkway planting. Children eat the fruits, but most of us feel that they are quite flavorless and dry in texture. In Spain, however, spirits are distilled from the fruits and wine is made in Corsica. The bark is useful for tanning.

**Culture.** These shrubs grow in either sun or part shade, enduring sand and some alkali in the soil. An editorial in "Gardener's Chronicle" (England) says that they do equally well in lime or lime-free soil. It is generally considered that they grow best when protected from strong winds. It is hardy to 15 degrees and tolerates heat if given enough water.

ALFRED C. HOTTES.

## Tools of Witchcraft

In ancient Rome one farmer was seen to have wheat far above the average. His neighbors became jealous. They whispered that he consorted with false gods and offered sacrifices to obscure deities. With their talk they consumed much time, and their crops grew poorly. "Let us present this case to the judges," said they. "Not only does his wheat wax better each week but ours wanes."

So the farmer appeared upon the day of his trial. The judge delivered the serious accusations. The farmer stood surrounded by his implements, his well-fed oxen, and pointed to his tools and his oxen, and modestly remarked, "Here, oh Romans, are my tools of witchcraft."



## Silvercord or *Calocephalus*

Kal-o-sef' a-lus. From *kalos*, beautiful and *kephale*, head, refers to heads of bloom. Family Compositae, related to Daisies.

*Calocephalus (Leucophyta) brownii*, the Silvercord, is a low, dense, white tangled mass of foliage generally about 1 foot tall. It produces a few golden terminal roundish buttons  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch across in June or July. The leaves are alternate, white-woolly, linear,  $1\frac{1}{6}$  inch long.

*Uses.* This makes a distinctive mass of whitish foliage for the border, rocky places, and might be used in flower arrangements.

*Objections.* The plants are of short life and have a most informal habit.

ALFRED C. HOTTES.

## St. Johnsbread or Carob

See-ra-toh' ni-ah. From *keras*, horn, alluded to the fruit. Family Leguminosae, related to Beans.

These dense headed rounded trees from the eastern Mediterranean region have been known to cultivation for many years. Old John Gerarde in his "The Herbal or Generall Historie of Plantes" printed in 1597, writes: "I take the husks or shels of the fruite of this tree, to be the cods or husks whereof the prodigall childe woulde haue fedde, but none gawe them vnto him, though the Swine had their fill therof."

*Ceratonia siliqua*, Carob, St. Johnsbread (Algaroba). The small red flowers are unisexual borne in short racemes in Winter. The glossy, 4 to 6 parted leaves have round or ovate, slightly ruffled leaflets 4 inches long. The large, flat seed pods are often 1 foot long and do not split open.

*Uses.* The California Association of Park Administrators considers this one of the best 65 parkway trees. Dust does not stick to the foliage. They are commonly seen thruout California as street trees in regions where there is not much frost. Besides the reference to feeding the prodigal son, this has been considered the Locust on which John the Baptist fed in the wilderness. At least in some parts of Europe the seed pods are used in medicine and for food and forage for they contain 66 per cent sugar and

gum. Some say that liqueurs are made from the pods, too.

*Culture.* They are deep rooted and drouth resistant growing poorly in undrained soils. They like lime. Plant both male and female trees if pods are wanted.

ALFRED C. HOTTES.

## Shade-Enduring Plants

### TREES AND SHRUBS

*Acer japonica* (Japanese Maple).  
*Alsephila* and other Treeferns.  
*Beloperone* (Shrimp-plant).  
*Brunfelsia* (Yesterday-today-and-tomorrow).  
*Buxus* (Box).  
*Camellia*.  
*Clerodendron bungei* (Rose Glory-bower).  
*Eranthemum*.  
*Fatschedera*.  
*Fuchsias*.  
*Hebe* (Veronica).  
*Jacobinia carnea*.  
*Laurus* (Laurel).  
*Mahonia* (Oregon Hollygrape).  
*Nandina* (Heavenly-bamboo).  
*Podocarpus*.  
*Raphiolepis* (Indian-hawthorn).  
*Ruellia macrantha*.  
*Ruscus* (Butchersbroom).  
*Sollya* (Australian-bluebell).

### VINES

*Ampelopsis henryana* (Henry Creeper).  
*Hardenbergia* (Vinelilac).  
*Hedera* (English Ivy).  
*Hibbertia* (Guinea-flower).  
*Oxera* (Royalclimber).  
*Philodendron*.

### PERENNIALS AND LESS WOODY PLANTS

*Acanthus*.  
*Ajuga* (Bugle) Ground cover.  
*Anemone*, Japanese (*Anemone japonica*).  
*Aquilegia* (Columbine).  
*Begonias*.  
*Bromeliads*.  
*Calceolaria*.  
*Cineraria*.  
*Clivia*.  
*Dicentra eximia* (Plumy Bleeding-heart).  
*Francoa* (Snow-wreath).  
*Hedychium* (Gingerlilies).  
*Helxine* (Angeltears).  
*Heuchera* (Coralbells).  
*Hypericum moserianum* (St. Johnswort).  
*Tolmeia* (Pick-a-back-plant).

### SMALL SHRUBS FOR SMALL GARDENS

*Aster fruticosus*. A shrubby *Aster* with purple flowers and tiny leaves.  
*Buddleia lindleyana*. 3-5', velvety purple flowers.  
*Buxus barlandi*.  
*Ceratostigma willmottiana*. Bright blue flowers.  
*Chaenostoma (Sutera)*.  
*Chorizema cordata*. Orange and red flowers.  
*Cneorum tricoccon* (Spurge-olive). Grown for foliage.  
*Convolvulus cneorum*. Gray leaves and white flowers.  
*Correa pulchella* (Australian-fuchsia). Doesn't need special watering. Keep trimming to prevent legginess.  
*Cotoneaster microphylla*, *thymifolia*, *buxifolia*, *vellaea*, *procumbens* and *adpressa*. Excellent fruits.  
*Cuphea llavia*, *byssopifolia*, *platycentra* (Cigarplant).  
*Daboecia cantabrica* (Irish-heath).  
*Dimorphotheca*.  
*Diosma ericoides* (Breath-of-heaven). Cut back after flowering, just clip heads.  
*Dyschoriste*. Purple-violet flowers.  
*Erica mediterranea* (Biscay Heather).  
*Eranthemum frutescens*. Deep blue flowers. Likes shade.  
*Felicia amelloides* (Blue Daisy).  
*Fuchsia*. Many dwarf varieties.  
*Hebe buxifolia (Veronica)*. (Boxleaf Veronica).  
*Hypericum henryi* (St. Johnswort). Large golden flowers.  
*frondosum* var. *minima*, smallest.  
*Jasminum humile* (Italian Jasmine).  
*Lantana*. Dwarf white.  
*Limonium caspia* (Sea-lavender).  
*Mabernia* (Honeybells). Yellow flowers, also good for steep slopes.  
*Myrsine africana*. Resembles Boxwood.  
*Myrtus communis* var. *microphylla*. May get larger.  
*Polygala dalmaisiana*. Bright purple flowers.  
*Punica granatum* (Dwarf Pomegranate).  
*Raphiolepis delacouri*.  
*Reinwardtia indica* (Yellow Flax).  
*Salvia leucantha* (Mexican Bush sage). Purple flowers.  
*Serissa foetida*. White flowers. Foliage has cabbage odor.  
*Turraea obtusifolia*. White flowers, partial shade, foliage too yellow in sun.  
*Thymus vulgaris* (Mother-of-thyme).  
*Westringia* (Australian-rosemary).



## Foundation Planting

Plants and shrubs used for foundation planting must be neat in appearance, and compact because they are slow growing. Such plants are more expensive because they cost more for nurserymen to grow. They should be beautiful all the year round with no long period of unsightliness.

\*—The 10 best.

*Azaleas*. These shrubs give us gay flowers but they require an acid soil. The shrubs need an adequate supply of water and a mulch to keep the surface of the soil cool.

\**Acanthus*. Requires drainage but the soil is not important. They tolerate shade. For a few weeks the leaves are unsightly and should be cut to the soil.

\**Begonias*. Many of the Begonias are excellent for foundation planting especially, *Lady Waterlow*, *fuchsioides*, and *semperflorens*. To keep the plants in good form they are cut back periodically to make them branch from the soil.

*Buxus, Box*. A versatile shrub which can be kept low or allowed to become tall and clipped formally. Keep plants compact by clipping.

*Camellia*. A deluxe and popular shrub because of its glistening foliage the year round as well as its Winter exquisite flowers. Needs an acid soil and some shade.

\**Carissa*, Natalplum. Excellent glossy leaves, white fragrant flowers followed by large edible red fruits. Prune to suit your needs for form. Very thorny so that it keeps dogs away but may be an improper shrub for use where children become badly scratched and pierced.

*Chorizema*. Less often seen than it deserves as it is low, compact, and stands drought. The flowers are Pea-like, orange-red with a purplish keel—a color difficult to combine with others. The leaves are Hollylike.

\**Coprosma*. This much-used shrub with glistening foliage tolerates severe pruning and stands salt winds.

*Correa*. Excellent tubular, soft pink flowers. The shrubs remain small if pruned back to required situation.

\**Cotoneaster parneyi*. This is a far superior shrub to the usual *C. pannosa* which has selfsown all over San Diego. The foliage is dark green, clean, and the fruits are abundant.

*Diosma ericoides*, Breath-of-heaven.

The leaves are fragrant and the pink and white flowers are very dainty. It enjoys a light soil but it can have too much or too little water. May be clipped to keep it well shaped but do not cut back to hard wood.

\**Fuchsias* in variety. Winter pruning to shape the plants to desired height and habit.

*Ferns* in variety. Shade, of course. Dig in leafmold.

*Grevillea thelemanniana*. Finely cut foliage. Small flowers red.

*Grewia*. Dark green leaves. Starlike lavender pink flowers Especially good for espalier.

*Hebe buxifolia*. Naturally dwarf and dense. Flowers are seldom produced but they are white. *H. andersoni* is white, tipped violet. These shrubs do not need pruning.

*Hydrangea*. Tremendous heads of bloom, white, blue, pink, or lavender. Cut back severely each Winter.

*Ilex cornuta*, Chinese Holly. Glistening, angular leaves. Cutting some tips of the branches for decoration is a method of pruning.

*Juniperus chinensis torulosa* has twisted branches so that it produces an informal effect and fits into a situation. *J. pfitzeriana* may be trained to be upright, or the center may be removed so as to cause the plants to be prostrate.

*Lantana camara*. Perhaps too common but very showy, useful and tolerant of adversity. Prune to keep in bounds.

*Murraea exotica*, Orange-jasmine. Excellent glossy foliage and fragrant white flowers. Pinch back the shoots to keep the plants in good form.

*Myrtus communis*, Myrtle. Fragrant small foliage. Tolerates severe pruning.

\**Nandina*, Heavenly-bamboo. Excellent, dainty foliage which turns red. Cut it back to keep the plants compact. Give good watering and feeding.

\**Pittosporum tobira*. A standard compact, glossy leaved shrub which may be trained to the needs of the situation.

\**Pyracantha*, Firethorn. Many sorts are available. They are esteemed for their great masses of fruits in Winter.

\**Raphiolepis*, Indian-hawthorn. White or pink flowers and almost black foliage. An ideal neat shrub.

*Turraea*. A good shrub where it thrives. The foliage is small, the flowers are white.

## Drought-Resistant Plants

There are 3 divisions of drought-resistant trees and shrubs—those which, once established, thrive and appear at their best with no artificial watering, others which will live under natural conditions but prefer a certain amount of care (too much water will kill both of these groups), and the 3rd division composed of plants which exist with little or no water but really thrive under normal garden conditions.

### GROUP 1

The first group includes almost all natives plus certain importations from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Those already used successfully in La Jolla follow:

*Agaves*—(Centuryplant)—Natives of the warm and semi-arid regions of the Western Hemisphere, they do well even in the salty sand and adobe of the shore, do not burn and need no care.

*Aloes*—The old-world cousins of the Agaves of the Americas. Well known in La Jolla their red and yellow flowers are our chief standby for vivid winter bloom. They are of different types of growth. Some are stiff Agave-like rosettes; others are scandent shrubs. They will stand as much abuse as Agaves.

*Berberis nevini* (*Mabonia nevini*)—a California Barberty with good grayish foliage, very prickly.

*Cactus*—innumerable varieties, many of which you will see planted in the sand dunes of Dunemere Drive, La Jolla, in hard adobe against walls or in rock walls—anywhere in drought and sunshine.

*Carissa grandiflora*—Natalplum from South Africa. Good, polished foliage under all conditions. It stands pruning to any form from ground-covers to espaliers and has large, fragrant white flowers followed by showy red fruits. One of the best.

*Carpenteria californica*—Long bright green leaves and fragrant white flowers. Needs a sheltered position.

*Ceanothus* (Wild-lilac)—There are many varieties and all should be grown here, if at least partly sheltered from strong sea winds. *C. cyaneus*, the popular dark blue lilac, is native to San Diego county alone and comes originally from near Lakeside.

*Chamaelaucium ciliatum* (Geraltion Waxflower)—A somewhat heath-like shrub from Australia. The

growth is open and spreading. The slender branches are dotted with small pink flowers. Excellent in a sunny situation.

*Echium fastuosum* (Pride of Madeira). A gray shrub composed of long hairy leaves with enormous spikes of flowers of every shade of blue. Too large for the small garden but wonderfully effective in large grounds or massed in dips or gullies of wasteland. There are many other *Echiums* well worth trying, some of them suitable for the small city lot.

*Eucalyptus*. This is the family of our most useful drought-resistant trees. There are countless varieties — so make your own choice. Blue Gums, Sugar Gums, Red Gums and the round-leaved *E. polyanthemum* are the best known of the larger trees, and the smaller *E. ficifolia* (the *Crimson-flowered Eucalyptus*).

*Fremontia californica* and *mexicana*—The former, the Flannebush, is a native of this state, the latter comes from Lower California and is the more desirable of the two. Under artificial conditions they grow rapidly but are very short-lived even with the best of drainage. This is one of the most beautiful of our small native trees and well worth growing on the hills. The flowers are a clear, bright yellow in *californica*; nearer a dusky orange in *mexicana*.

*Grevillea obtusifolia*—from Western Australia is one of our best ground covers. It is very spreading, a good green with bright, shiny leaves and red flowers in spring, and must have sun.

*Hakeas* are from the arid lands of Western Australia and so thrive under the same conditions here. *H. laurina*, the Sea-urchin, is the most popular, with long lance-shaped leaves of a grayish green and flowers like fuzzy balls of crimson and gold in fall and winter. *H. suaveolens*, a shrub of 10 feet or more, has stiff pinelike foliage of a good green, with fluffy white flowers in fall and winter.

*H. elliptica* is seldom grown here but is also excellent as are many others. They all make good wind-breaks or protective screens for less hardy shrubs.

*Photinia arbutifolia* (*Heteromeles*) (Toyon or Christmasberry). This is prominent in our California hills and mountains. It is used extensively on both dry hillsides and in gardens. The flowers come in June and the red berries last far into the winter.

*Mesembryanthemums* (Iceplant, Fig-marigold). They do well under almost any conditions and with the introduction of the smaller types with flowers in white, yellow, soft pinks and good reds they are now used as lawns directly on the Coast and as ground covers for parkings as well as bare waste spaces.

*Romneya coulteri* (Matilija-poppy) comes from Southern California and Mexico. The light blue foliage is not of the best so it is well planted among other shrubs where its five-inch blossoms with crinkled petals and large center of yellow stamens show to the best advantage. It does not stand transplanting or having its roots disturbed in any way. Cut back after blooming.

*Statice perezii* (*Limonium perezii*) (Sea-lavender) from the Canary Islands is one of our best low (to two feet) everlastings. The foliage is gray-blue, the flowers blue and white.

*Ulmus pumila* (*Chinese Elm*). This is a native of Turkestan and North China and is our most popular weeping tree. It is an excellent tree for a small garden, of rapid growth and has dark green, almost evergreen foliage.

*Zauschneria californica* is the little shrubby California-fuchsia of our western mountains. Good for interplanting among larger shrubs.

## GROUP 2

The following shrubs, when once established, will live with no care but are likely to appear neglected. So give them some water if you want really good results.

Acacias (Almost all varieties)—Australia.

*Atriplex breweri*.

Buddleias Butterflybush.

Callistemon (*Bottlebrush*).

Cassia (many varieties).

*Casuarina stricta*, *equisetifolia* & *cunninghamiana*. (Australia).

Cistus — (Rockrose) — Mediterranean shrubs.

*Cneorum tricocon*. Spurge-olive.

*Correa pulchella* (Australia). Australian-fuchsia.

*Cupressus*—Cypress.

*Diosma ericoides* (Breath-of-heaven). South Africa.

*Erica melanthera*—Heather. S. Africa.

*Ficus pumila* (Creeping Fig). China, Australia.

*Hedera helix* (English Ivy).

*Hypericum* (St. Johns-wort).

*Ipomoea leari* (Blue Dawnflower). Trop. America.

*Lantana camara*—Trop. America.

*Jacaranda acutifolia*—Brazil.

*Mabernia verticillata* (Honey-bell). Africa.

*Melaleucas* (Bottlebrush). Australia.

*Muehlenbeckia complexa* (Wirevine). New Zealand.

*Nerium oleander* (Oleander). Medit. region.

Palms—*Washingtonia*, *Phoenix* and others.

*Pittosporum*.

*Pinus* (all)—Pines.

*Plumbago capensis*. Cape Plumbago, S. Africa.

*Lantana camara*. Trop. America.

*Prunus ilicifolia* (Islay).

*Prunus integrifolia* (Catalina Cherry).

*Sollya heterophylla* (Australian Bluebell).

*Schinus molle* (Peppertree). Am. Tropics.

*Wigandia caracana*. Mexico to Venezuela and Colombia.

## GROUP 3

These will endure dry conditions but thrive best in the garden.

*Cissus rhombifolia*—N. & S. America.

*Cotoneaster*—Old World.

*Cystisus*—Broom.

*Duranta repens* (*plumieri*)—Skyflower—Florida to Brazil.

*Grevillea thelemanniana*—S. & W. Australia.

*Grevillea robusta* (Silk-oak). Australia.

*Ligustrum*—Privet—many var.

*Lonicera balliana* (Hall Honeysuckle). E. Asia.

*Myrtus communis* (Myrtle). Medit. Reg.

*Lagunaria patersoni*—Australia.

*Olea europea* (Olive). Medit. Reg.

*Parkinsonia aculeata* (Jerusalem-thorn). Trop. Am.

*Pittosporum undulatum* & *crassifolium*.

*Pyracantha gibbsii* var. *yunnanensis*—S. Eu. & Asia.

## Old San Diego

(Continued from page 2)

*molle*). There is no beginning and there is no end of this tree which came from Peru by way of Mexico. And nobody seems to know when. It probably was brought north by the Franciscans and there is a story of a sailor and some seed that turned out to be of this tree in the early gardens of San Luis Rey. Be that as it may, it still pops up almost anywhere as seedlings, but usually in the wrong place. It has become associated with the Mexican way of life, its vast open head and hanging tendrils a sure shade for the unhurried living of a people who gladly and with gratitude accept whatever Nature offers. Many trees resent domesticity . . . not this one. It enters freely and with gusto this leisurely life, its foliage to the hot sun and its roots in baked soil trampled and steeped in the simple living of these people.

The Olive (*Olea europaea*) fits the scene and cultural conditions almost exactly, having been associated with Spanish culture dating back into antiquity. Its natural grey-green goes with hot walls and the terra-cotta of tile fashioned over the thigh of a man. The best formed trees and those with the most character will be found in dry, sterile soils with little evidence of care. This is a tree for the leeward side of life, giving good shade against a hot sun and packed soil beneath for a bench and rest. The early Spaniards should have had it for the fruit and probably did, but the first reference found is 1784. By the latter half of the XIXth Century, Americans with their contrary ways in so-called efficiency, had introduced improved varieties. It is from these plantings that the splendid gnarled trees have come of later years for our patios and this will be the appropriate source of trees for the planting of the Restoration.

There will doubtless be a tendency and desire to plant Acacias, but there will be only one that has particular significance. A South Texan, speaking of trees will mention first the Huisache or Popinac (*Acacia farnesiana*) and evidence surprise and some hurt if you don't know it. It grows in the Rio Grande country as a small, delicately foliated, flat-topped spiny shrub or tree with an overall greyish green cast and a pervading fragrance

of Acacia. Priests coming overland must have gathered pods, for the tree appeared and grew for years in the gardens of the Mission in the San Fernando Valley.

Other expeditions overland from the east, Spanish or later American, must have noticed a small rounded bushy tree of the desert without leaves but green nevertheless. If early in the year, they would have appreciated the bright golden-yellow blooming, hazy liftings of color above the greyish brush of the washes. Later in the year the tiny, bright green leaves would have dropped, leaving the green twigs and branches to carry on a kind of illusion . . . another sort of mirage in the desert. This is Ratama or Palo Verde tree (*Parkinsonia aculeata*), confused as to botanical nomenclature, but very positive in value for this planting.

The later Spaniards brought another tree up from South America that had a certain vogue, but which has since almost disappeared from cultivation. It had the usually necessary qualifications, these of hardness and drouth resistance together with the ever-expedient shade. Umbu is probably the original native name, but the Spanish La Bella Sombre, the beautiful shade, brings out that little overplus of beauty and propriety so characteristic of these people. This tree (*Phytolacca dioica*) in flower will seem strangely familiar to people from eastern Pokeberry regions, but today they will of necessity travel to see it. Several well developed specimens will be found in Santa Barbara. Several young trees are coming along on the grounds of the Pacific Beach Grammar School. One venerable and misshapen tree in Balboa Park has fought a losing battle with shallow soil. Those interested, however, will tarry on Alena street in Redondo Beach on Route 101. There it is in typical form. The great bole and spreading ten-foot buttress will be unmistakable. It, too, is on a school ground parking.

The Americans brought in three species of tree growth that may be mentioned. Their value must be based on association rather than any intrinsic worth. Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is deciduous and survives all known forms of degradation and abuse. The unwary will call it a Walnut, but the fruit is a samara, the seed enclosed in a wing like that of the Maple. The tree will be found in

suckering groups in old San Diego. It came from China.

From India or southern China came the Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*) and its variety form the Umbrella-tree (*var. umbraculiformis*), both deciduous with a quite attractive lavender-purple flowering and good shade. They take extreme heat and are still much used inland. The latter is the better tree and will be found in Old San Diego. Also there is and for what purpose no one knows, the Osage-orange (*Maclura pomifera*) from the Arkansas-Texas regions. This was notably used in the Midwest by the pioneers to hedge in fields. Probably the first Iowa-California tourist was without benefit of bagman, but managed one of the curiously orange-like green fruiting heads. So that this American tree, *avant-courier*, fulfilled its destiny to the end. It came to the last frontier.

Now some people will wonder why the supposed "first" tree of them all has been omitted. The reference is to the Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) presumably planted in earliest times by Father Serra and now duly preserved and guarded by an iron fence. Suffice it to say there is no point here in a tree of the low desert with nothing to offer of beauty or other service; although people to this day allow seedlings to develop and take years to find out they have been cherishing a rogue. If plantings were made, this must have been discovered and there but remains to bear with a dubious sentiment and retain those at the Cross the one specimen within limitation of wires and the wind.

## Gas and Plants

We know that enough gas is escaping in some rooms to kill plants and prevent the occupants from reading without going to sleep. You and I do not notice the presence of illuminating gas in the air unless there is 1 part in 400. But plants are more sensitive. Carnation flowers close after an exposure of 1 part of gas in 80,000 parts of air. Therefore, plants are 200 times more sensitive to illuminating gas than we are.

If we are real plant lovers we will want to be sure that we do not have gas leaks in our home. Success with our house plants is not luck nor magic but depends upon eliminating the adverse conditions.



## What to Do in the Garden

The rains have moistened the soil deeply. Spring is in the air for the days are lengthening. It's what is called the "turn of the year"—when everything sprouts into new life.

Didn't you find from your experience last year that a small area well taken care of and watered is far better than having a larger area which can't be properly watered or where the soil could not be economically prepared? It's highly important that our soils need humus. In moist regions the supply of decayed vegetable matter has accumulated thru the ages but this is not true here in San Diego where each year a prolonged period of drouth and heat exhausts the humus. Therefore we absolutely must supply it. Dig in whatever you can get to increase the sponginess of the soil—well decayed manure, leafmold, lawn clippings, garden trash, material you have prepared in a compost heap.

By this time you have also realized that irrigation is far different than in many other sections where you may have gardened. There will be months during which not a drop of water can be expected. Merely sprinkling with a hose will not adequately water a food garden. We must resort to some method of planting the garden so that there are definite beds surrounded by furrows down which the water may be conducted. Commonly we can plant a double row of one crop or a different crop in each row. Here is the way to make these furrows: With a hoe make a trench about six inches deep dragging the soil to you. Twenty to 25 inches from this make your second trench, throwing the soil on top of the same ridge. When this ridge has been raked level, the furrows will be little deeper than the original 6 inches, but they will fill in as you cultivate, less so if the furrows are wide enough to be flat on the bottom.

When the crop is sown, the rows are made 3 inches from the shoulder of the ridge. Such double rows may be used for Radishes, Lettuce, String Beans, Beets, Spinach, Peas, Carrots, Parsley, in fact all but the Melon tribe in which case the beds are made 6 to 8 feet wide.

You are now ready to plant. The seeds must be sown deeply enough so that they remain moist during germination but not so deep that they can

not push through the soil above. So we generally make the rule of sowing four times the diameter of the seeds, tho this is modified by the nature of the soil—less covering in heavy adobe soils and often deeper in light sand.

*Vegetables.* All the hardiest vegetables may be sown now. Root crops such as Beets must have the soil deeply prepared else the roots are woody and misshapen. Beet seed is really a cluster of seeds to form a small fruit therefore they always come up in clusters and need thinning. Carrots are slow to germinate and have some difficulty in lifting the layer of soil above the seeds. Commonly we mix the seeds with Radishes and sandy soil and sow them in the row together. The Radishes grow first and help the carrots up. While the plants are still small start to thin and as soon as they are any where nearly large enough to eat do so thereby giving the remaining plants sufficient room to develop.

Lettuce must grow in cool weather especially if you desire that they produce heads. Such leafy crops always want feeding with nitrogen.

We commonly set out the plants of Cabbage and Tomatoes rather than sow the seeds ourselves. Now is the time to put in the early Cabbage 15 inches apart.

Onion sets will do well and produce large Onions if your soils grow good crops of other vegetables but if your soil is not in best of tilth they will not become large and can then be harvested as green Onions in which case they can be eaten raw or the tops and bulbs cooked as greens. It is particularly desirable to keep the top layer of soil moist at all times as Onions are shallow rooted. There is a mistaken notion that the tops of Onions should be broken down to help the bulbs to develop. Never do this until late in the season just before they mature because it stands to reason that the leaves must be encouraged to grow their utmost as it is the leaves which manufacture the food which builds up the Onions.

*Fuchsia Fixing.* Now is a good time to see that the Fuchsia plants suit your ideal. If they are too tall, prune out some of the longest branches down to the soil, although such radical treatment may not be necessary. Sometimes it's well only to remove

the top a little lower than you want the plant to grow eventually. At least the side branches should be shortened to keep them from becoming too pendulous because the new growth will become heavy and pull down the shoots. Removing a half to two-thirds of the wood of the side shoots will rejuvenate the plants. Hanging basket plants should be pruned to mere stubs leaving only three or four buds on each side branch. As soon as these have made a few leaves the new growth is pinched back here and there to make the plants shapely and much branched.

*Camellia Temptation.* Don't resist the temptation to add a few new Camellias because there are dozens of indispensable varieties according to your taste for color and form. Remember that they are not tolerant of alkaline soil but prefer soils on the acid side. You may have to make enough soil for your plants by using plenty of oak leafmold. Bud dropping is more often due to insufficient moisture when growth is active from April through June but the blasting of buds in winter is more often due to excessive sun. Lack of moisture in the soil or excess on the buds are other contributing factors.

*Seeds to Sow.* You can sow annuals now. Besides the old standbys try the dainty *Browallias* in a pansy bed. Sow a row of *Swan River Daisy* as an edging. Remember that *Vinca rosea* is a most prolific bloomer for masses to form a temporary hedge perhaps around the food garden. The Moroccan Daisy, *Chrysanthemum mawi*, is a not-so-common pink Daisy that you are sure to want in a bed among annuals and also peeking out from among the shrubs. Seeds of bedding *Begonias* will help to keep you supplied with an abundance of these ever-welcome plants.

*Tuberous Begonias.* Were you successful in keeping your Tuberous Begonias? Now is the time to start them in shallow boxes of sand well drained, or peat moss, or leafmold. Don't keep them too wet. Take them up from time to time to see if they have sprouted, because it is often difficult to tell whether they are right side up. The top of the tuber is usually hollowed out. When roots have formed the tubers are potted in a mixture of half rotted leafmold, a quarter sandy soil, and a quarter well-decayed cow manure.



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